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issued a series of maps of the Antilles, Persia and China on this scale. The cartographic department of the Royal Prussian Land Survey followed with a map of eastern China, a number of sheets of which are now completed; and the Intelligence Division of the War Office of London is now publishing a large map of Africa on the uniform scale. All these enterprises are helping to carry out the scheme of a uniform map of the world the progress of which will be advanced to an important extent by cooperation in the western hemisphere.

A LETTER FROM PROFESSOR W. DEECKE.

SIR,—With reference to the review of my book on Italy* in No. 10 of Vol. XXXVII of the BULLETIN, permit me to state that the book has been translated without my knowledge and consent, and that I must therefore decline all responsibility for the alteration or omissions or any other liberties the translator may have taken with the text of the original.

Greifswald, October 21, 1905.

W. DEECKE, Ph.D.,

Professor in the University of Greifswald.

To the Editor of the BULLETIN.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AFRICA.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Professor W. M. Davis, of Harvard University, has lately contributed to the New York *Nation* and to the *Boston Transcript* five letters giving a general account of the recent visit of the British Association to South Africa. The two letters in the *Nation* give a more formal account of the meetings and of the itinerary of the various excursions; the three letters in the *Transcript* describe the more personal events of the voyage to Cape Town, of the journey into the interior as far as the Victoria Falls of the Zambezi, and of the voyage home from Beira by the East Coast. Some four hundred over-sea members, including sixteen foreign guests, of whom five were from the United States, took part in this great excursion. The plans were so carefully laid that every arrival and every departure occurred on dates that were

* Italy. A Popular Account of the Country, its People and its Institutions (including Malta and Sardinia). By Professor W. Deecke. With numerous Maps and Illustrations. Translated by H. A. Nesbitt, M.A. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1904.

planned before the party left England—except that there was an unexpected delay for those who came back by the East Coast steamer, on account of the obstruction of the Suez Canal by the explosion of the steamer *Chatham*.

Prof. Davis's references to his personal experiences indicate that he accompanied several geological excursions; the first led by Rogers, Geologist of Cape Colony, in the Karroo, where the east and west ranges and valleys stand in the same relation to the plateau of the Veld that the Appalachian ridges and valleys of Pennsylvania and Virginia bear to the Allegheny plateau; the second excursion in Natal, led by Anderson, Geologist of Natal, in association with Molengraaff, formerly Geologist to the South African Republic; the third in company with Hatch, President of the Geological Society of South Africa, to Vereeniging on the Vaal River, and the fourth to the northeastern part of the Transvaal, led by Hall of the Geological Survey of that colony.

The visit to Victoria Falls, the farthest point inland, was made by the entire party in three special trains, and was greatly enjoyed by every one. We note that Prof. Davis spoke at the recent meeting of the National Academy in New Haven on the Dwyka glacial formation of South Africa, and that he is to address the Boston Society of Natural History early in December on Geological and Physiographical Observations in South Africa. We are glad to announce that Prof. Davis will address the American Geographical Society at Mendelssohn Hall on Feb. 20 next, the title of his lecture being "With the British Association in South Africa."

AMERICA.

THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS.—This Association will meet at the house of the American Geographical Society on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 26 and 27, holding morning and afternoon sessions. The Association was organized in Philadelphia in December last year, and its membership is limited to persons who have done original work in some branch of geography. The programme will include the reading of papers by members, some of which will be illustrated by lantern-slides. The BULLETIN is requested to announce that the Association extends a cordial invitation to members of the American Geographical Society to be present at its meetings.

PROGRESS OF THE ALASKA BOUNDARY SURVEY.—Superintendent Tittmann of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey informed the Society on Nov. 10 that at that time the Alaska boundary surveyors were either leaving or had left their fields of work owing to the inclemency of the weather. The season during which the demarcation surveys of the Southeastern Alaskan boundary can be carried on lasts for about five months, or from June to October. The heavy snows do not disappear from the lower slopes of the mountains until June, and when they begin to melt, the surveyors contend against the torrential floods in the narrow mountain gorges through which the melting snows and glaciers discharge. Aside from the great physical difficulty of transportation and the inaccessibility of the mountains, the rains and clouds which hide the mountain peaks interfere with the operations during the greater part of the short season in which the work can be carried on.

Mr. Tittmann added that during the field season just closed the surveying and demarcation parties were distributed as follows:

A Canadian party marked the crossing of the line on the Salmon River which

flows into the Chilkat, and an American party continued last season's work on the main Chilkat River, the crossing of Glave Creek having been monumented in a previous season;

Another American party marked White Pass and the crossing of the upper valley of the Skagway and determined the geographical positions of several peaks with reference to the coastwise triangulation with which the boundary peaks are to be connected;

A Canadian party marked the line from the first peak south of the Stikine River to Mount Whipple and was engaged in the triangulation beyond;

An American party carried the necessary triangulation up the Unuk River, marked the crossing of the line below the cañon and determined the boundary peaks to the east and west of the river;

A Canadian party operated at the head of the Portland Canal, working westward from the monument established by the American and Canadian Commissioners during the previous season.

THE HEIGHT OF MOUNT WHITNEY.—Mr. Henry Gannett informs us that the U. S. Geological Survey last summer ran a line of levels from the Pacific Coast by way of Los Angeles and Mohave and Owens Lake Valley to the summit of Mount Whitney, giving it a height of 14,499 feet. This entire line was double-rodged, and is doubtless accurate to within a foot. This appears to settle the much-disputed question of the height of this peak. It slightly exceeds in height any other mountain in the United States, outside of Alaska. Mount Rainier, in the State of Washington, was determined by 13 vertical angles to be 14,363 feet high; so that Mount Whitney surpasses it by more than 100 feet. It is also higher than the loftiest summit in Colorado. The determination of Mount Shasta by means of many vertical angles gives it a height of 14,380 feet.

UNDERGROUND WATERS OF LOUISIANA.—*Bulletin No. 1* (1905) of the Louisiana Geological Survey gives information now available concerning the underground waters of the State. The serious study of this question began in 1899-1900, and it is now possible, by consulting maps based upon these investigations, to make a very fair estimate of the underground water prospects of any district. The well sections published in this report show about what may be expected concerning the nature and thickness of the various strata penetrated before water is reached. Mr. Veatch, working conjointly for the United States and the Louisiana Surveys, has compiled a long catalogue of localities with true heights above mean Gulf level. This is of great use for the investigation of underground waters. A list of these altitudes filling 55 pp. is published as an appendix.

TERRESTRIAL MAGNETISM IN LOUISIANA.—*Bulletin No. 2* (1905) of the Louisiana Geological Survey shows what has been accomplished in the establishment of meridian lines for the use of surveyors and what measurements have been made to ascertain the changes in the earth's magnetic field within the State. Louisiana is the third State in the Union to have a satisfactory magnetic survey including all three elements—declination, dip, and intensity. Before the magnetic work had far advanced various reports dealing with this branch of geophysics in Louisiana indicated that East declination was decreasing at the rate of 3' per annum. The later work has proved that former calculations were incorrect, and that since about 1898 East declination has been increasing at least 1' annually. Every surveyor in the State now has a ready means of finding what the index

error of his compass is. The pamphlet contains an isogonic chart of the world and an isomagnetic chart of Louisiana.

TIDE GAUGE WORK IN LOUISIANA.—The Louisiana Geological Survey announces (*Bulletin* No. 3, 1905) that it is beginning the work of precise levelling in the southern part of the State. One purpose is to supply bench marks for local surveys, especially for canal and railroad enterprises. All local lines may then be referred to one datum plane, and the time saved by local surveyors in running and correcting level lines will be important. Another advantage will be the determination, in the course of time, of the direction and rate of vertical movement of the earth's surface in this region.

ORIGIN OF THE CHANNELS SURROUNDING MANHATTAN ISLAND, NEW YORK.—Under this title Prof. Hobbs (*Bull. Geol. Soc. Amer.*, Vol. 16, 1905, pp. 151-182) presents a great mass of facts and considers their bearing upon the problem of the origin of the valleys in and around New York City. By reference to previous literature he shows that it is the prevailing opinion that these channels, which give to New York its peculiarly favourable water frontage, are due to the influence of weaker rock strata, notably limestones, which, by weathering and stream erosion when the land stood at a higher level, gave rise to valleys now occupied by ocean water because of depression of the land. He then presents a great deal of evidence, obtained by painstaking gathering and study of records from borings and excavations, showing that, in fact, there is little correspondence between the directions of the limestone belts and the water front. For much of its distance Harlem River crosses limestone and gneiss in a direction transverse to the strike of the rocks; the numerous excavations beneath bridge piers and in tunnels in East River show hard rock, and not limestone, as the prevailing rock; and the North River extends along the contact of two series of rocks, the Newark traps and the older crystallines of Manhattan Island. From the observations which he has made Hobbs concludes that the water front of New York City owes its form, not to normal stream erosion, but to the guidance of lines of fracture. R. S. T.

ORIGIN OF THE WEST INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO.—No living geologist has studied the West Indies as extensively as Prof. R. T. Hill, and whatever he may write upon this subject is worthy of the closest attention. In a recent paper (*Bull. Amer. Geol. Soc.*, Vol. 16, 1905, pp. 243-288) he takes a strong stand against the views set forth, especially by Spencer, that this archipelago represents the remnants of a lost "Antillean continent" and that the channelways among them are drowned river cañons. Hill divides the archipelago into four groups on the basis of origin—(1) the Bahamas, submerged banks of unknown origin now covered by wind-blown coralline sands; (2) the Great Antilles, true mountain-folds accompanied by old igneous intrusions; (3) the South American Islands (Trinidad, etc.), which are disconnected outliers of the South American continent, analogous to Long Island; (4) the Windward Islands, which are ocean-born volcanoes, built up by frequently-repeated eruptions similar to those recently observed in Martinique.

Prof. Hill's paper contains a great deal of fact relating to the physical geography and geology of the archipelago, and particularly of the Windward Islands. The highest land altitude in the Windward Islands is 5,000 feet, and the greatest sea depth 17,064 feet, giving a total relief of over 22,000 feet from the sea-floor, 29 per cent. of which is above sea-level, 71 per cent. below. With

the exception of Barbados these islands are composed of volcanic ejecta supplemented by deposits of limestone derived from marine organisms which lived along the shores and were later added to the land by uplift. There are no granite or ancient sedimentary strata and no transported drifts or gravels indicating former continental relations. The history of the Windward Islands involves "volcanic eruption, marine planation, secular upheaval, and lime-making oceanic life" is the conclusion which Prof. Hill has reached from his studies of the region; and it may be added that most physical geographers will probably agree to this conclusion.

R. S. T.

BARON ERLAND NORDENSKJÖLD'S WORK IN NORTHERN BOLIVIA.—Reuter's Agency has received from this explorer some details of his study of Indian tribes during the past eighteen months in northwestern Bolivia. With three comrades he left England in January, 1904, crossed the Andes to La Paz, and then made his way into the forests to the north. He visited three tribes—the Yamiacas, Guarayos, and Atsapuacas—who until recently lived in the pure "stone age." No white man had previously visited the last-named tribe, though they were using some implements made by whites that had reached them through other tribes. The explorers were very well received by the natives, but were unable to get into contact with a fourth tribe whose territory was crossed, as the people would have nothing to do with the visitors, though closely watching them from a distance. Baron Nordenskjöld says that the Quichuas and Aymaras living around Lake Titicaca are a very interesting study, as they have retained many customs unaltered since the time of the Incas. The explorers suffered much from illness, which forced them to abandon their researches earlier than they had intended.

PROGRESS ON THE GUAYAQUIL AND QUITO RAILROAD.—The British Consul at Guayaquil reports that during the year ending last August the Guayaquil and Quito Railroad was pushed forward, and is now running three trains a week to the important and populous town of Riobamba. The line is now levelled for a considerable distance beyond that town, and it is expected that Ambato will soon be reached. An American capitalist is establishing a system of automobiles, which are expected to make the journey from Riobamba to Quito within twelve hours, thus reducing the time occupied between Guayaquil and Quito to two days.

ASIA.

SEAWEED INDUSTRIES OF JAPAN.—In this BULLETIN for November, 1904, the writer called attention to an interesting comparison of American and Japanese fisheries. Recently there has been issued, first, as a part of the *Bulletin* of the Bureau of Fisheries, 1904, Vol. XXIV, pp. 133-181, and, second, as a separate "extracted" from the above, a rich body of material relating especially to the seaweed fisheries and dependent industries of Japan. Hugh M. Smith is the author. The value of seaweeds prepared in Japan exceeds \$2,000,000 annually, and this excludes large quantities which never enter commerce, but are used where prepared by the families of the fishermen. This magnificent output is due (1) to the great extent of the coast-line, bringing a large proportion of the people near the sea, (2) to multitudes of harbours large and small, (3) to the abundance and variety of useful algæ, which flourish in their marginal waters, (4) to the ingenuity of the people, developed under long experience and adjustment, in putting the various kinds of plants to the best use, in utilizing them to the fullest extent, and in devising methods of collecting and preparing them.

The industry has grown along four lines—*kanten* or isinglass, *funori* or glue, *kombu* or food preparations, and the extraction of iodine. In the first division, the industry consists of gathering the algæ in the shallow waters of the sea, drying them on shore in the sun, transporting them to the hills, where their preparation is best carried on, and then cleaning and boiling, straining, etc., to reduce the material to a thick pulp when hot. It cools in moulds into sticks or bars of hardened jelly ready for market, where it is sold to be used at home for food, soups, sauces, etc., and abroad for jellies, desserts, sizing of textiles, clarifying liquors, and in making moulds for plaster-of-paris works. The product is the agar-agar of the bacteriological laboratory.

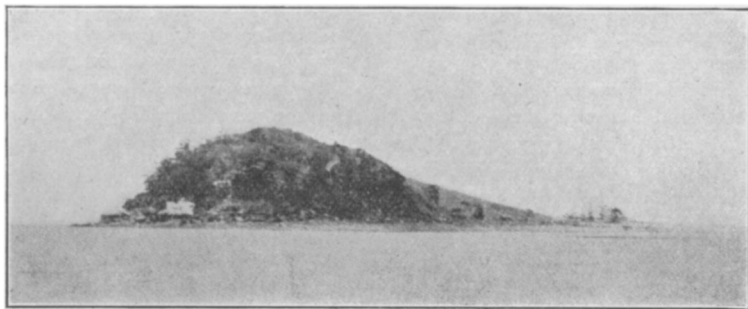
In the second, seaweed glue is prepared by simple processes wrought on the cleaned and dried sea algæ. The glue is used for glazing and stiffening fabrics, also as is laundry starch. Japanese women sometimes clean their hair therewith.

Kombu is a general name given to a variety of seaweed foods. Dried kelp is rolled into bundles, cleaned, boiled, and strained; and then the product shredded and put up into boxes for market. Kombu in one or more of its various forms is a part of the food of almost every Japanese family, often a standard article. Judging from its chemical composition it is valuable and nutritious. It contains from 4% to 6% of protein, 1% of fat, and 30% to 50% soluble non-nitrogenous matter.

The fourth product is iodine, which is derived from many species of seaweed, by burning the dried plants and washing the ashes and then concentrating the brine until all the salts are dry. The residue goes into a retort with sulphuric acid and the iodine is distilled off. The details of all these processes, besides several others, are given in the paper and well illustrated. G. D. H.

AUSTRALIA.

AN ISLAND OF IRON IN QUEENSLAND.—The Northumberland Islands belong to Queensland and lie off the east central coast in the Pacific, between the towns of Rockhampton and Mackay. One of the smallest islands in the Duke Group of this archipelago is Iron Island, of which a view, taken from Publication No. 194 of the Geological Survey of Queensland, is here given. The whole island is iron



IRON ISLAND IN THE PACIFIC.

ore except a strip from 60 to 120 feet wide on the west and a sand flat across its northern end. The island is 1,320 feet in length and 528 feet in greatest width, its highest point being 120 feet above high-water mark.

It is estimated by the Geological Survey that the amount of ore above high-water mark is 1,500,000 tons and that the additional ore available between high and low tide (23 feet) amounts to 750,000 tons, making a total of 2,250,000 tons of available ore. The rock on the western side of the island is greenish, highly-altered trachyte in which there has been great development of east and west cross quartz veins, probably formed before the iron was introduced into the surrounding region. On the south side of the island are three outcrops of pure white statuary marble from 10 to 20 feet across and 20 to 60 feet in length.

It is believed by some Queensland geologists that the ore metasomatically replaced limestone and slate and that the formation of ore may still be going on, inasmuch as the ridge top supports figs and scrub vegetation, showing that spring water is still reaching the surface. The ore consists chiefly of cryptocrystalline magnetite with massive hematite, and has scarcely a trace of impurity. Its specific gravity is 4.5 to 4.6. Blocks of ore up to 10 feet in diameter are piled up around the base of the island. No work has yet been done, but there will be no difficulty in mining down to tide-level; to work below that level a wall of ore will have to be left to prevent the entrance of the sea-water.

EUROPE.

SOURCE OF ELECTRIC POWER IN BAVARIA.—Major von Donat, the author of the well-known plan for the drainage and colonization of the Pontine Marshes, has placed before the Bavarian Government a project for creating a source of electric power sufficient to run all the railways of the country. He would secure this power by damming the River Isar between Wallgau and Vorderritz, thus creating a new lake, and connecting this with the Walchensee and the Kolchelsee. He has figured out that this would effect a saving of \$10,000,000 a year.

THE GLACIERS OF THE WESTERN CAUCASUS.—The Imperial Russian Geographical Society has published a report by Mr. N. A. Bush (Memoirs, Vol. XXXII, No. 4) on "The Glaciers of the Western Caucasus." Mr. Bush was sent by the Society in 1896, 1897, and 1899 to the Kuban Territory and the Suchum district (both north and south of the Western Caucasus) to study the glaciers and flora. The volume deals with the results of the glacial investigations. It describes nearly all the glaciers in the Kuban Territory and probably most of those in the Suchum district. The number of known glaciers on the northern slope of the Western Caucasus is 230, of which Mr. Bush explored 224. The number of glaciers on the southern slope is unknown, but 54 were explored by Mr. Bush.

All the glaciers of the Western Caucasus are receding, this process having begun no less than 25 years ago. The retreat of glaciers of the first class has of late been very pronounced, but irregular; one glacier receded 45.5 feet, and another 241.5 feet in two years. The number of glaciers increases from west to east—that is, according as the height of the main ridge increases.

POLAR.

THE MELVILLE-BRYANT DRIFT CASKS.—At a meeting of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia on Nov. 1, President Bryant reported the recent recovery of two of the drift casks that were set afloat by the Society in the Arctic Ocean north of Bering Strait, in the hope that the recovery of some of them might throw new light on the direction of Arctic currents. President Bryant said in part:

I am able to announce that two of the drift cask messages have been received in Philadelphia. The

first record shows that it was cast adrift by Captain Tuttle of the revenue cutter *Bear* on Aug. 21, 1901, about 85 miles northwest of Wrangell Island. It was recovered by Captain A. G. Christianson on Aug. 17, 1902, near the entrance to Kolyuchin Bay on the Siberian coast, west of Bering Strait. It is evident that this cask did not get a good start. In the one year less four days of its drift the course it followed of 380 miles to the southwest was probably influenced by local currents which exist near Bering Strait.

The other cask had a longer voyage, and doubtless a more eventful history. Placed on the floe ice northwest of Point Barrow, Alaska, in $71^{\circ} 53' N.$ Lat. and $164^{\circ} 50' W.$ Long., by Captain Tilton of the steam whaler *Alexander*, on Sept. 13, 1899, it was recovered 1 mile east of Cape Raudanupr, on the northern coast of Iceland, on June 7, 1905.

Mr. Bryant read the following from a letter written by Admiral Melville:

More of the casks have come through, but have not been found; while others, no doubt, have been found but not reported. There is no telling how long the cask found in Iceland drifted about in open water before it was cast ashore. A ship drifting the same way, no doubt, might have come through two years earlier. . . . No doubt others have passed around Cape Farewell, Greenland, and are now on the west coast, and if they are not picked up will . . . eventually come south in the Labrador current. We will yet hear of more of them.

SIZE OF ANTARCTIC ICEBERGS.—Capt. Robert F. Scott (*Geog. Journ.*, XXV, 1905, p. 356), speaking of the huge tabular icebergs of the Antarctic, states that of the hundreds of icebergs seen by him few exceeded a mile in length and 150 feet in height, while the vast majority were less than a quarter of a mile across. The largest iceberg seen was estimated to be 5 or 6 miles in length and to have about the same width. In the same region one iceberg was estimated to be 240 feet high. Captain Scott considers that Murray's estimate of seven parts below water to one above is too high, and that five to one is nearer the truth. This conclusion he bases upon the (1) shoalness of water in which the bergs were aground, (2) an eye estimate of the proportion indicated by an overturned iceberg, and (3) the appearance of the ice, which apparently contains much air. Among his illustrations is an excellent picture of a typical iceberg. R. S. T.

VARIOUS.

REPORT OF THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS.—The United States Congress authorized the printing of this "Report" at the expense of the National Government. It contains 1064 pp. Of the papers offered to the Congress, 119 are printed in full or in abstract. They include nearly all the contributions read at the Congress; but, unfortunately, a number of notable papers do not appear, as, for one reason or another, the manuscripts were not obtained by the Printing Committee.

The reports of these International Congresses have been welcomed by teachers of geography in European Universities as valuable sources of reference. The present volume will be included in this list of worthy books, though naturally, the Congress having been held so far from European centres of geographical interest, it was much smaller than its predecessors, and its literary output was by no means so large. It would be pleasant to meet with fewer typographical errors in the book, but criticism in this and other matters is practically disarmed by the fact that the task of preparing this large volume for the press was a gratuitous labour on the part of the Printing Committee.

CENTENNIAL OF THE TRIP OF ROBERT FULTON'S FIRST STEAMBOAT.—To mark the centennial of the trip of Robert Fulton's first steamboat in the Hudson River, in October, 1807, the Committee on Plan and Scope of the Fulton Centennial Commission has recommended the construction of a memorial arch in Battery Park and

the establishment of a marine museum, on a basis similar to that on which the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the American Museum of Natural History were founded.

BULLETIN OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.—It is announced that, beginning in January next, the *Bulletin* of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia will be issued every three months. Prof. Emory R. Johnson will be the responsible editor, and will have the co-operation of Mr. Walter Sheldon Tower as associate editor. The past year has been the most prosperous one in the history of the Society—judging by the increase in members and the general activity of the organization.

THE EXPLORERS' CLUB.—A club of this name has been formed in New York City with rooms at No. 23 West Sixty-seventh Street. Its membership is limited to men who have been engaged in exploration. The objects of the Club are to further exploration and to bring explorers together in social intercourse. It is intended to hold monthly meetings, at which illustrated talks will be given. The club has been organized with Brig.-Gen. A.W. Greely as President and Mr. H. C. Walsh as Secretary. The first meeting at the rooms was held October 26, when lectures were given by Mr. Frank P. Chapman, who described his studies of the flamingo, and Professor Herschel Parker, of Columbia University, who told of his experiences among the Canadian mountains.

THE COYOTE.—Too often the study of geographic conditions stops with physiographic and climatic factors. A paper by D. E. Lantz (*Bull.* 20, Biol. Surv. U. S. Department of Agriculture) entitled "Coyotes in their Economic Relations" emphasizes an additional point. Plant and animal life which man can bring into service, or which he must combat, may be a very important factor in the general problem of Geographic Influence. The author discusses the range, species, food, and habits of coyotes in North America. They may be found from Costa Rica to Athabaska, and from the Pacific to the Mississippi. Their exceeding numbers and their increase under the new régime of pioneer civilization, and added food supplies of poultry, lambs, sheep, calves, colts, pigs, and house refuse, are two striking features.

The coyote has been found beneficial, in that he feeds upon rabbits, prairie dogs, several kinds of rats and squirrels, and mice, all of which the farmer wishes to dispense with. But the animal does not stop with these classes of food. He catches weasles and skunks, which assist man in his warfare with injurious insects. He destroys game, as quail, grouse, wild ducks and geese, and even kills deer and antelope. Now that civilization has brought within his range many domestic animals which furnish a more savoury relish than the wild game, and that man has deprived him of much of the latter, by exterminating, at least locally, the wild animals formerly fed upon, the coyote shows his influence by visits to the poultry roosts, turkey ranges, duck ponds, pigeon cotes, pig pens, and sheep and calf corrals. Even the family cats kept as mousers have often been taken. He is most destructive, however, as an enemy of the sheep industry, which he has succeeded in driving out of many Western localities.

Poison, trapping, and even systematic hunting with Government bounties to pay expenses have not been effective in controlling this depredator. He has proved as formidable an obstacle to man's occupancy and utilization of much of the pasture land of the West as has the jackal to the development of ostrich, cattle, and sheep farming in South Africa and the rabbit to pastoral pursuits in

New South Wales, Australia. Experiments with various kinds of fence in the West are leading to the conviction that the coyote can be successfully mastered by artificial barriers. G. D. H.

COMPARING TEXT-BOOKS OF GEOGRAPHY.—In the *Elementary School Teacher* for October, 1905, is an article entitled "A Consideration of Geography Texts," written by Professor Kenyon of the San Francisco Normal School. It is devoted to a painstaking, judicial, and discriminating consideration of the modern school text-books of geography, and especially of the Redway, Morton, Tarr and McMurry, and Roddy series. The several books reviewed are all criticized as to the character of the maps, the author favouring the plan of having a physical map of a continent followed by a political map with the physical features underlying. The illustrations in the several books are not considered generally successful, though the results from wood cuts have certain advantages.

The general uniformity of the content is considered as being unfortunate, as it shows little real evolution in geographies in the last hundred years.

The following table showing the pages devoted to each division of the subject, with allowances for difference in the size of the pages, brings this out clearly:

	GENERAL GEOGRAPHY AND PRINCIPLES.	UNITED STATES.	REST OF NORTH AMERICA.	SOUTH AMERICA.	EUROPE.	ASIA.	AFRICA.	AUSTRALIA.	APPENDIX.
Redway.....	41	43	15	10	18	14	6	4	26
Morton.....	39	44	22	10	20	14	8	6	17
Frye.....	65	63	12	9	16	15	10	5	8
Tarr & McMurry.. (2d & 3d books)	57	80	16	14	55	16	12	10	16
Roddy.....	19	42	14	10	20	14	9	7	4

The author favours maps not on a uniform scale, as is illustrated in the Tarr & McMurry series, and commends especially the Frye and the Redway for the use of the necessary topical summary, wholly or largely lacking in the other books.

The conclusion that "A *bona fide* text will have two essential parts: one of these an atlas made up of maps and such tables of statistics as are needful in ordinary reference, the other a minutely specific course of study for the teacher's guidance," to which should be added a "copious fund of geographical readings," is undoubtedly theoretically true. As a matter of fact the plan of separating the atlas and the text has been tried twice in this country with absolute failure. To be effective such a text would need two atlases—one for school use and one for home use. The mechanical and practical difficulties are too many to make this plan effective in America, though it is carried out elsewhere.

The author's points as to the essential qualities of a text are accurate and clearly expressed. Any one seeking a text-book would do well to apply these points to any text as a measure of that text's efficiency. R. E. D.

OUR GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE.—Dr. Cleveland Abbe, Jr., of the United States Geological Survey, is the American collaborator for the Annual *Bibliotheca Geographica* of the Berlin Geographical Society. Dr. Abbe would be glad to

receive authors' separates at above address. If separates are impossible, full titles with limiting pages, numbers of illustrations, and volume reference should be sent. R. E. D.

GEOGRAPHY IN NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS.—The Board of Education for the City of New York revised the course of study for the city schools in June, 1905. As a result the work in geography is somewhat simplified and the order of study of the continents has been somewhat changed. It is now necessary for a pupil to have studied North America, and especially the United States, in detail by the end of the fifth year. Hence pupils leaving school at this time, as so many do, will know something of their own country. Singularly enough, however, Africa, Asia, and Australia are studied in considerable detail—once in the sixth and once in the seventh year, while the United States are only studied in detail once in the fifth year. North America and Europe are studied in a large way in the first half of the seventh year, but not so as to give the best understanding possible of the salient geographic features of the home country. R. E. D.

DR. GILBERT'S GIFT TO DENISON UNIVERSITY.—*The American Geologist* says that Dr. G. K. Gilbert has given to the Department of Geology in Denison University upwards of 1,000 volumes of literature, consisting of U. S. Geological Survey reports, State Reports, reprints, proceedings, and other valuable books. It will be remembered that the library of the University was destroyed by fire some time ago.

PROFESSOR STEVENSON'S MAP STUDIES ABROAD.—Professor E. L. Stevenson of Rutgers College returned in October from Europe, where he carried on his map studies with gratifying results. His purpose was to give careful examination, in various libraries, to early cartographic material pertaining especially to America, to make search for hitherto unknown and unpublished material, to meet specialists, and to arrange for the reproduction of certain important early maps. He was so fortunate as to make two or three important finds, and to get on the track of valuable maps little known or altogether unknown. Arrangements have been made to continue the publication of fac-similes of early maps. Professor Stevenson's tour took him to England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain, where officials, librarians, and specialists gave him every facility.

U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES. DECISIONS NOVEMBER 1, 1905:

* BUCHAREST: City in Roumania. (Not Bucarest, Bukarest, Bukharest, nor Bukhorest.)

CEDAR: River in Eastern Iowa. (Not Red Cedar.)

* CHUCKEY: Post office and railroad station, Greene county, Tenn. (Not Chuckey City, Chucky, Fullen, Fullen's, nor Fullens.)

DE SMET: City, Kingsbury county, S. D. (Not Desmet.)

DELEVAN: Post office and railroad station, Colusa county, Calif. (Not Del Evan nor Delavan.)

DELRAY: Post office, railroad station, and village, Wayne county, Mich. (Not Del Rey, Delrey, nor Delrey Junction.)

DRY PASS: Passage between Kosciusko Island and Prince of Wales Island, southeastern Alaska. (Not El Capitan nor Klawak.)

* Reversal of former decision.

EAST NEW MARKET: Election District, post office, railroad station, and village, Dorchester County, Md. (Not East Newmarket, nor New Market.)

* KETCHIKAN: Post office and village on Revillagigedo Island, southeastern Alaska. (Not Kitchikan.)

* LITTLETON: Post office and railroad station, Jefferson county, Ala. (Not De Berniere.)

MANITICK: Mountain in Granby, Hartford county, Conn. (Not Manatick, Manatuck, Manitake, Manitook, Manituick, Mannatuck, nor Mantick.)

MOUNT WIESSNER: Mountain, Shoshone county, Idaho. (Not Mount Wiesner, Old Baldy, Wessner's Peak, Wiesner's Peak, nor Wiessners Peak.)

ST. JOE: River, tributary to Cœur d'Alene Lake, Idaho. (Not St. Joseph, St. Joseph's, nor St. Josephs.)

SOOES: River, Clallam county, Washington. (Not Suez, Tsoo-e-ez, nor Tzues.)

* SWANS: Island, Hancock county, Me. (Not Swan Island, nor Swan's Island.)

† VALETTA: Capital of Malta. (Not Valetta.)

THE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ERDKUNDE, of Berlin, held a Memorial Meeting on the 29th of October, in honour of the late Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen.

A commemorative address was delivered by Prof. Dr. E. von Drygalski.

THE SOCIÉTÉ DE GÉOGRAPHIE, of Rochefort-s/Mer, announces the death of its President, M. Paul Charron, on the 9th of October, at the age of 73 years.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

ANNOUNCEMENT.—The next meeting of the Society will be held at Mendelssohn Hall, No. 119 West Fortieth Street, on Friday, January 5, 1906, when Dr. Otto Nordenskjöld will describe the incidents of the Swedish Antarctic Expedition.

NEW MAPS.

AFRICA.—Stanford's New Orographical Map of Africa. Scale, 1:7,286,400, or 115 miles to an inch. Four sheets. Compiled under the direction of H. J. Mackinder. E. Stanford, London, 1905. (Price, in sheets, 16s.; mounted on rollers, 20s.)

This map has been very carefully compiled for use in the school room. Six tints of blue show ocean depths to over 15,000 feet; 6 tints of brown show elevations above sea-level to over 15,000 feet; and olive green shows land below sea-level. Thus the deepening tints of one colour are used for the land and those of another colour for the sea. This simplifies the colour scheme, and, in the opinion of many teachers, is worthy of general adoption. The contour lines are drawn at the same intervals above and below sea-level, enabling comparisons to be made which emphasize the essential plateau character of Africa. The great submarine ridge extending through the mid-Atlantic, on which St. Helena and Ascension islands stand, contrasts most effectively with the bordering depths. In addition to the land-forms, many place-names are very distinctly printed.

* Reversal of former decision. † A curious decision.